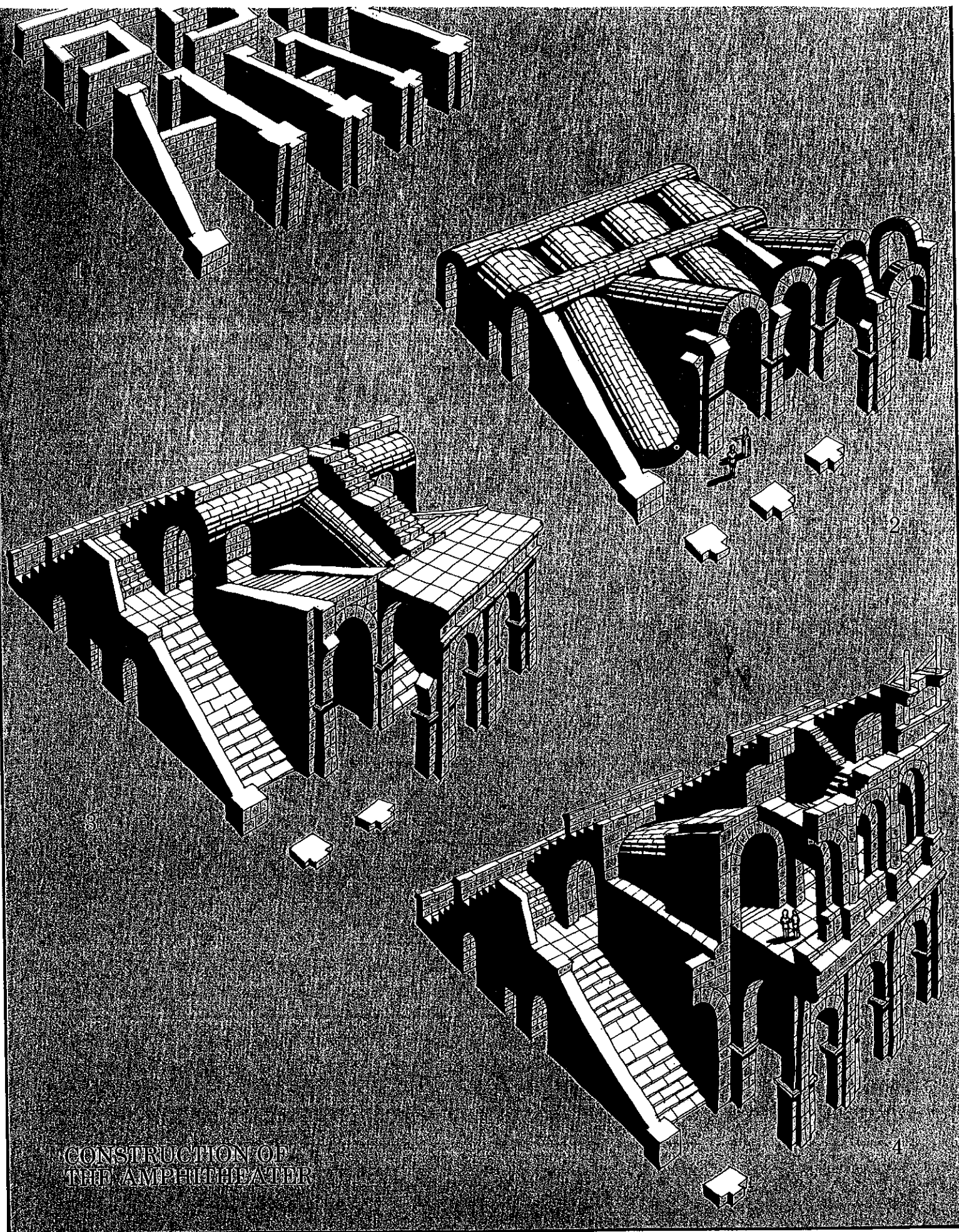


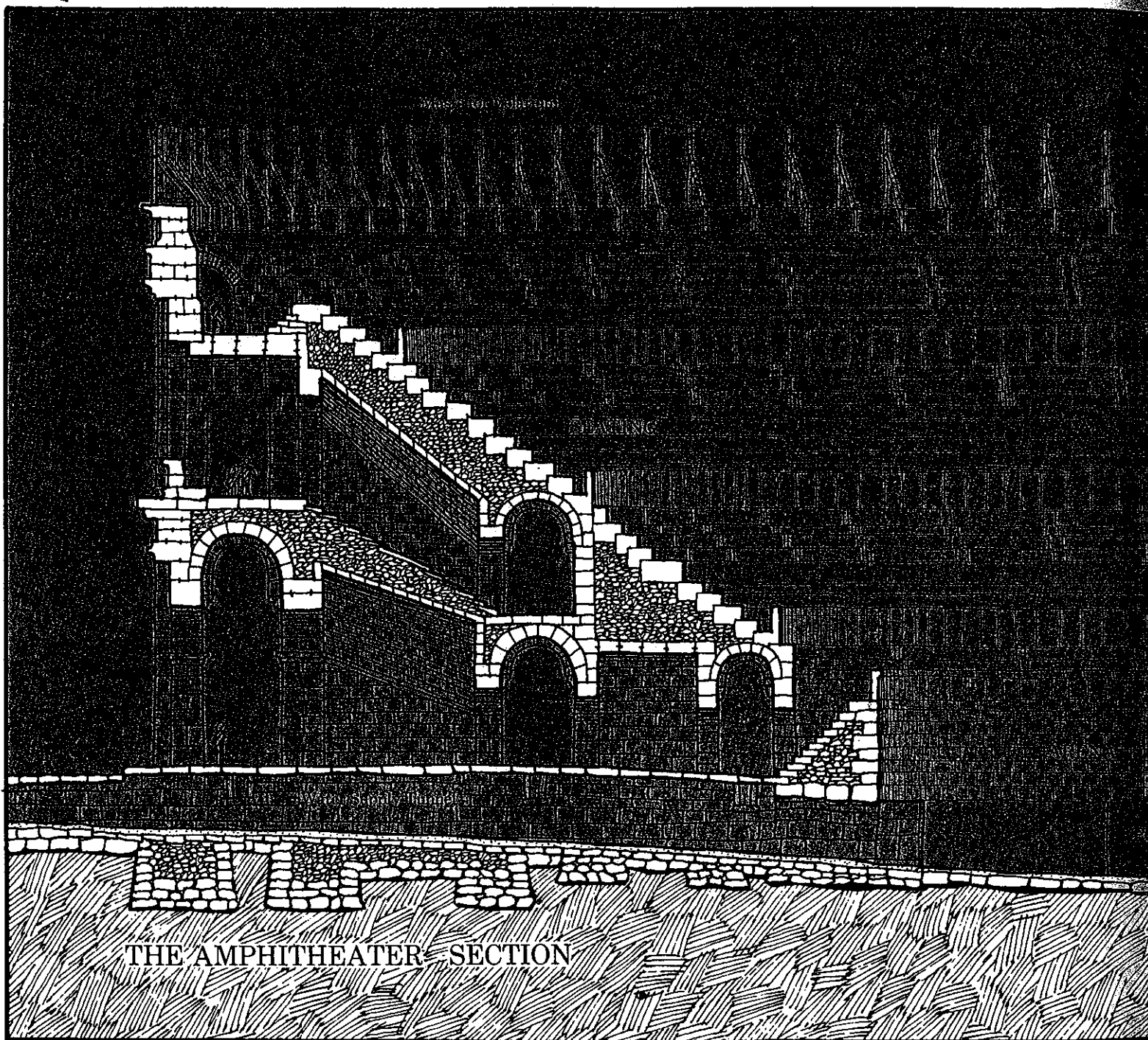
THE AMPHITHEATER • PLAN

The last public area to be fully developed was the city's entertainment center. In A.D. 44 the senate voted to build a more permanent amphitheater and theater. Until that time a sloped earth mound lined with stone seats and reinforced by a ring of arches had enclosed both the arena and the stage of the theater.

The original oval shape of the amphitheater was maintained and enlarged. The stone seats now rested on two layers of tunnel-vaulted passages radiating out from the center. These passages were connected by other passages which ran around the arena.

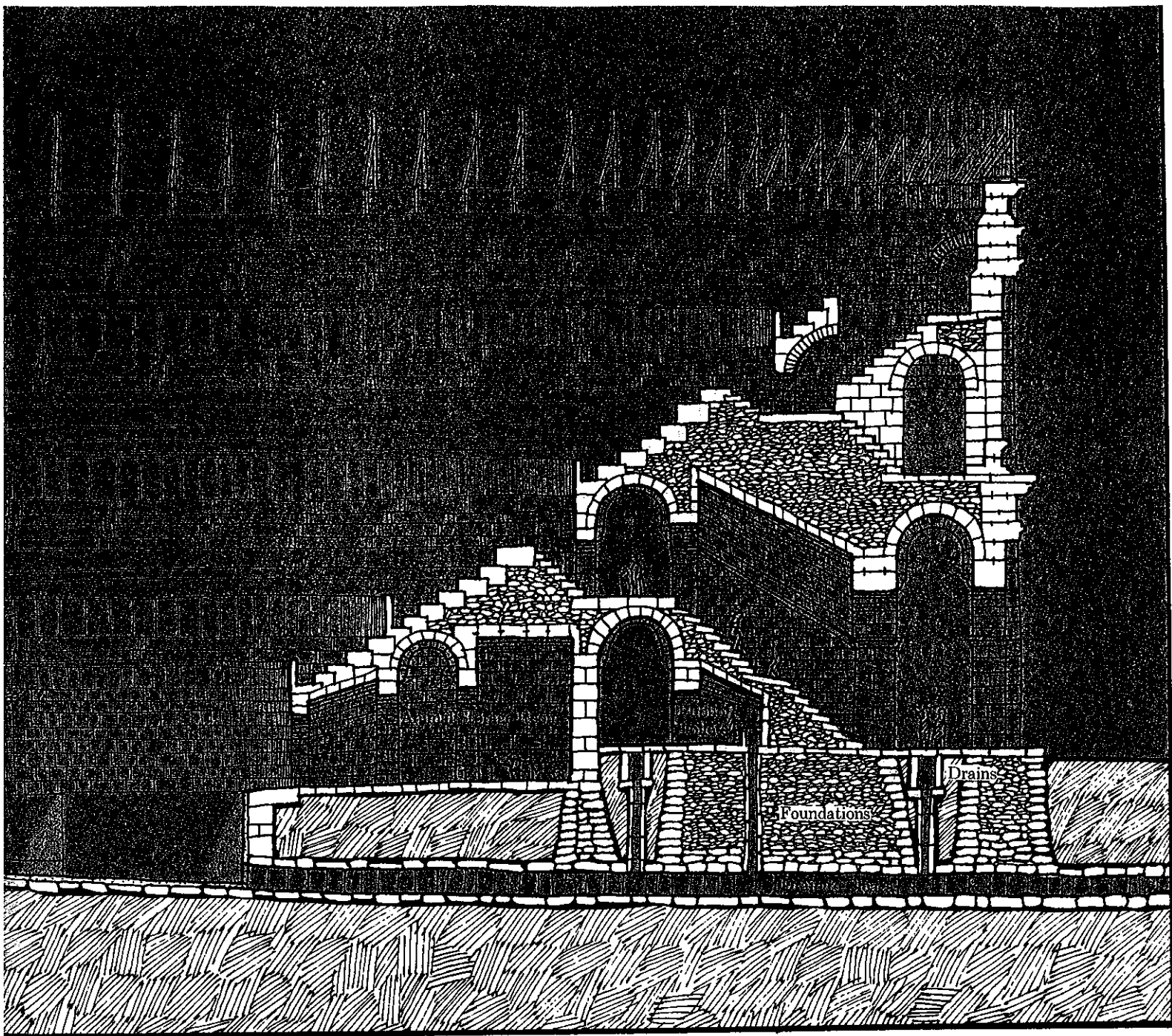


CONSTRUCTION OF
THE AMPHIBI-BATH



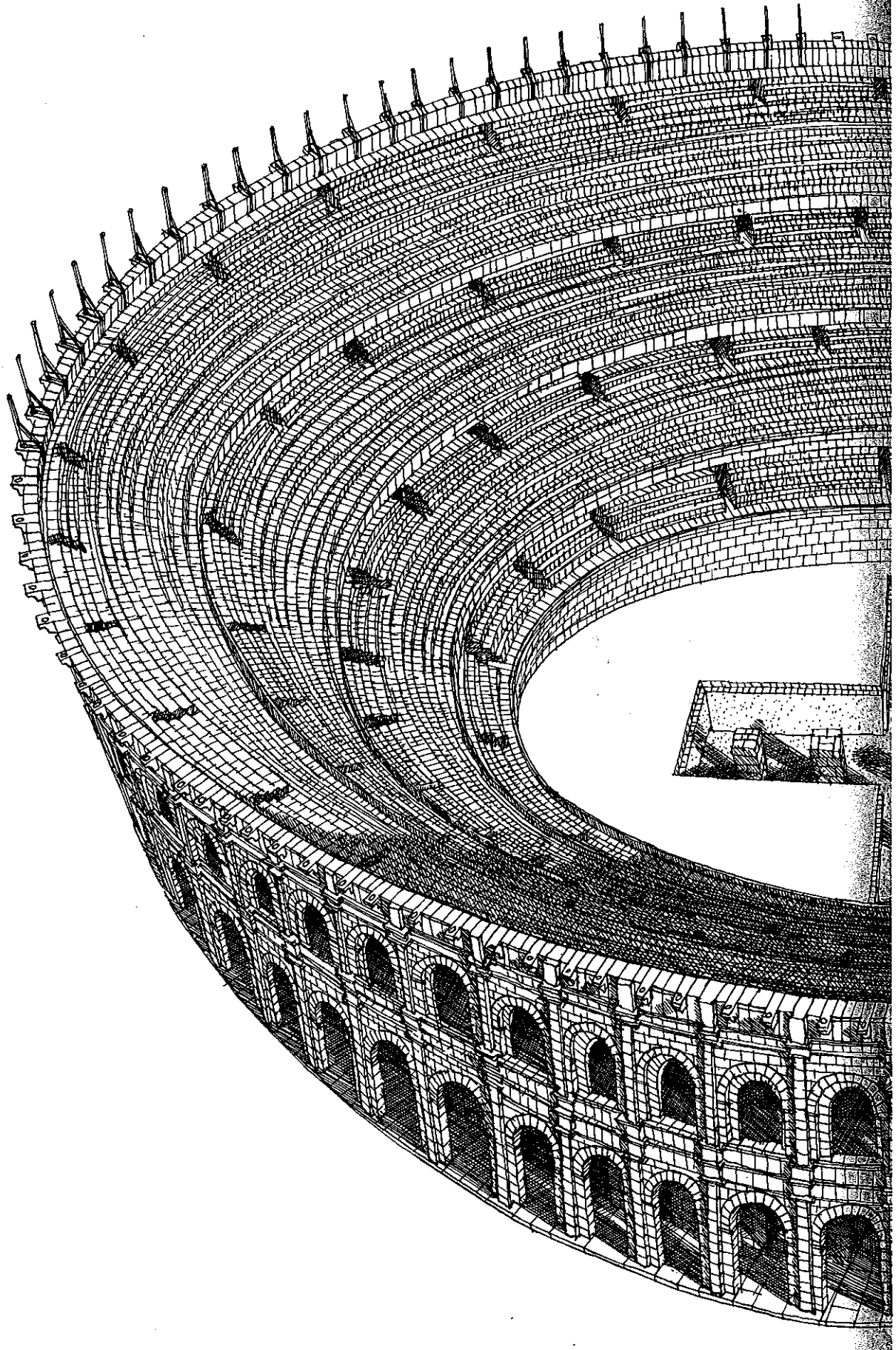
The arena was sunk several feet into the ground and surrounded by a high wall. Deep pools were built in the floor which could be filled for staging naval battles. When they weren't needed, they were covered by wooden boards and emptied through a canal into the cloaca.

Besides toilets and a snack bar the passages contained ramps and stairways

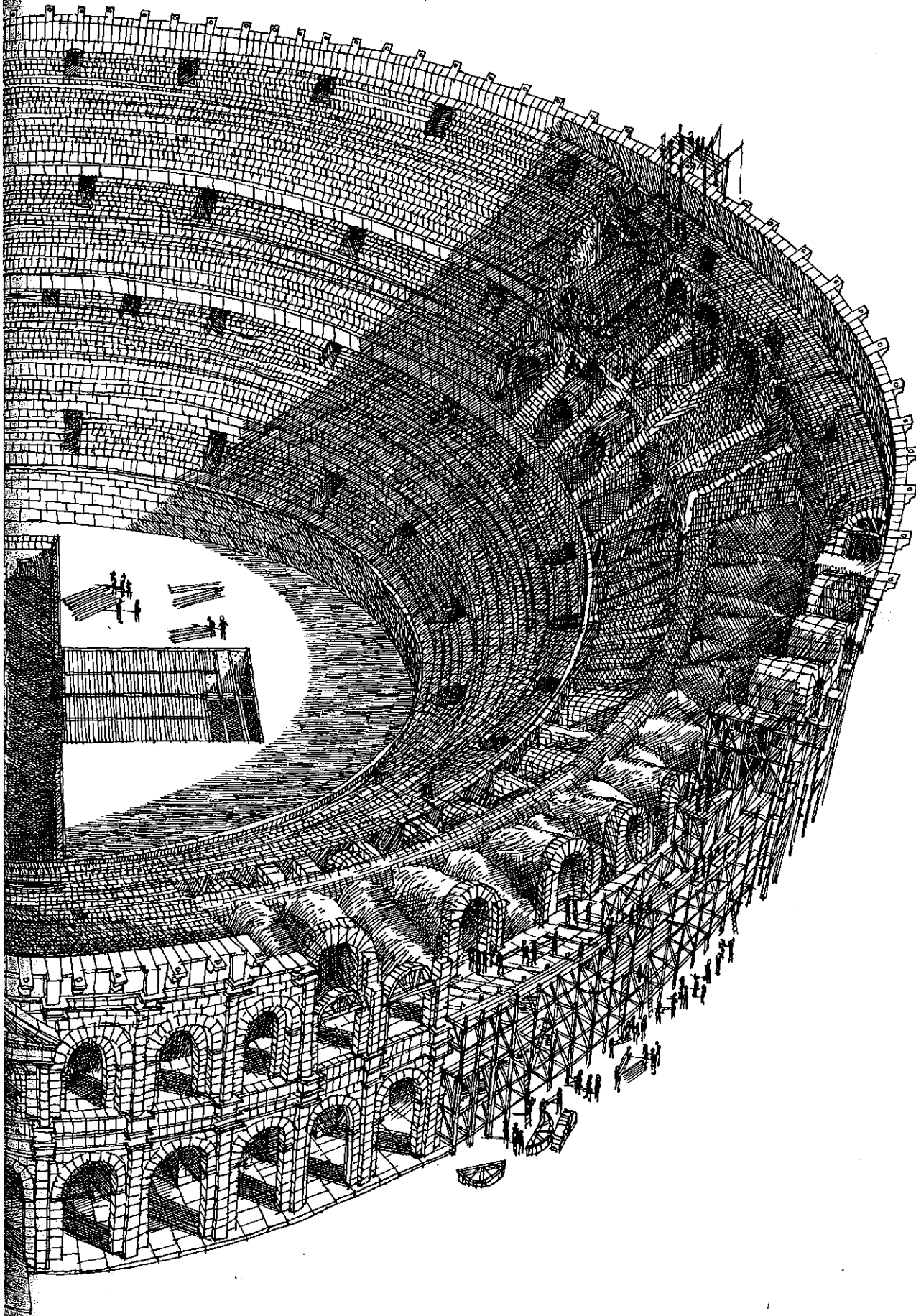


which enabled the entire twenty thousand spectators to enter or leave the structure in less than ten minutes. Wild animals and equipment used in the performances were kept under the lowest seats in rooms which opened onto the arena. The most popular performances involved the deaths of either animals, slaves, or gladiators — men paid to fight each other.

Two rows of arches, one on top of the other, formed the exterior wall of the amphitheater. This wall was constructed of carefully cut stones clamped together with iron and bronze pins. The passages and vaulting were all constructed of stone and concrete. A rope net was suspended above the entire



seating area from wooden masts. If the sun was too hot a canvas roof called a valarium was drawn over the seating area. When it rained during a performance everyone took shelter in the passages.



By A.D. 75 both the amphitheater and theater were finished and a festival which lasted twenty-five days was held to celebrate the occasion.

